



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHARLTON PARK
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Dear Parent/Carer

Play Development: date agreed for works to commence

Following a highly productive site meeting with our contractor I am delighted to be able to inform you that work on our new play area will start during the forthcoming Whitsun school closure. We anticipate that the project will take six to eight weeks. I'm sure that we would all hope that the project proceeds smoothly and might be brought to completion in the least possible time -finally, it seems that things might actually start to happen!

St John's chosen to be a 'Church of England Training School'

I am both pleased and proud to inform you that our school has received a formal invitation to work in partnership with the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Our school has been invited to become one of only five that will train aspiring Headteachers. This is a prestigious honour and our selection reflects the Diocese's view that we at St John's are an exceptional church school. I firmly believe that this accolade is a testament to the consistent efforts of our entire school community and reflects our collective aim to tirelessly pursue outstanding provision for all.

The St John's Easter Experience takes central stage in the Diocesan Newsletter

The recent Easter Experience organised by Mrs Sadowski was a huge success, so much so that the Director of Education at the Diocese of Bath and Wells and her advisory team came to hear of it! The Easter Experience saw the school hall transformed into a number of interactive workstations that walked our children through the whole Easter story. The event was run by school Staff, Governors and members of the St John's Church congregation. As a result of the events huge success the Diocese wishes to run a headline article in their newsletter describing the event together with photographs of our children taking part. This is, again, quite an accolade and my thanks go to all those who worked so hard to make the Easter Experience such a resounding success.

St John's School is 50 Years Old!

I am fortunate enough to be in possession of our school log books stretching back to the nineteenth century when our school, then called Keynsham Parochial School, was sited on Bath Hill. Whilst leafing through the pages of these amazing documents that chronicle daily school life for over 150 years I came across an entry made by Mr Elford, Headmaster, who writes of the school's excitement at moving from Bath Hill to a new site in Charlton Park.

The new school, to be known as St John's Church of England Primary School, opened in September 1960 which of course means that when we reach September 2010 our school will have spent 50 years on our current site. We intend holding a special celebration in recognition of having reached a further landmark in the history of the school and I will write to you shortly with details of the event.

A 'Chelsea-esque' League and Cup Double

Chelsea may well have recently won the premier league and cup double but they are not alone in that achievement. Max and Richard (Year 5) are part of the Bitton Boys Under 10 squad that has not only won the Hanham Minor League Division 'A' title but who also took the Under 10's cup with a resounding 6-0 victory in the final last weekend. This is a huge achievement and I'm sure that you will join me when I offer the boys, and their team mates, my congratulations.

St John's Ducklings Arrive!

Those parents with children in our Reception Class will know that having bought a new incubator this year we have been anxiously waiting to see whether or not the duck eggs that our Reception children have been caring for will hatch. Our wait was over when we arrived in school early on Monday morning to find that the first cracks and small holes had appeared on some of the eggs and as the morning wore on the children were fortunate enough to witness the arrival of the ducklings as they emerged from their shells. Pictures and a short video of the new arrivals have been uploaded onto our school website.

Contact Magazine Article

You may be aware that our Chair of Governors writes a regular article for the Parish 'Contact' Magazine. The article updates the parish on the work of our school. Given that it is not always possible for parents to get a sense of the work of the *whole* school I have attached a copy of the article to this newsletter. Having read it, I am sure that you will agree that what we achieve here for our children is simply outstanding and is a testament to the hard work of the Staff, Governors and Parents who all contribute to the rich tapestry of provision of which we are all so justifiably proud.

Recycling Week

We all know how lucky we are to live on such a beautiful planet and we have seen in the news lately how vulnerable it can be.

Next week the children will be thinking about our planet and how we can reduce the amount of waste we produce.

As a school we have decided to try to achieve 'Green Flag' status for St John's. This is an award run by the 'Eco Schools' which rewards schools for becoming more sustainable; reducing the energy and water we use, recycling more, and learning more about the environment in our classrooms. We are hoping to get the Bronze award by the end of Summer.

To launch the drive for Bronze status we are having a week of eco-themed activities. The children will be electing members of a 'Green Team' that will look for ways to improve what we do. We will be designing a green logo, and having some fun lessons.

During the week our PTA will be running a 'uniform swap' to re-use unwanted clothes. Please bring any good quality clothes that your children have grown out of, and swap for some that will fit! This is a great way to reduce the amount of energy in producing clothes.

We would also like to encourage children who eat a packed lunch to bring a 'zero waste' lunch during next week and we will be on the look out for especially inventive ways of approaching this with a special award presented during Friday's whole school service.

More details of our forthcoming 'World Cup Week', a joint project with Staple Hill Primary School, will follow in the next school newsletter.

I hope that you enjoy the half term break.

Yours sincerely

M Cottrell

Headteacher

PLEASE CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF THIS AND PAST NEWSLETTERS, AN ONLINE SCHOOL DIARY AND LOTS OF RECENT UPDATES RELATING TO MANY OF THE MATTERS COVERED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.